

WAC 220-415-050 2018-2020 Elk general seasons and definitions.

It is unlawful to fail to comply with bag, possession, and season limits described below. A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.410 Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

Bag Limit: One (1) elk per hunter during the license year, except where otherwise permitted by department rule. Any combination of seasons, tags, and permits set by the department will not exceed a maximum of two (2) elk per hunter during the license year.

Hunting Method: Elk hunters must select only one of the hunting methods: Modern firearm, archery, or muzzleloader.

Elk Tag Areas: Elk hunters must choose either Eastern or Western Washington to hunt in and buy the appropriate tag for that area.

Any Bull Elk Seasons: Open only to the taking of elk with visible antlers; bull calves are illegal.

Antler Point: To qualify as an antler point, the point must be at least one inch long, measured on the longest side.

Branch: A branch is defined as any projection off the main antler beam that is at least one inch long, measured on the longest side, and longer than it is wide.

Spike Bull Antler Restrictions: Bull elk taken in spike-only game management units (GMUs) must have at least one antler with no branches originating more than 4 inches above where the antler attaches to the skull.

Spike-only GMUs: 145-154, 162-186, 249, and 336-368.

True Spike - Bull Antler Restrictions: Neither antler of bull elk taken in GMUs 251, and 328-335 can have branching originating more than 4 inches above where the antlers attach to the skull. Under the true-spike restriction, taking an elk that has two points on one side or antler points within one inch of the definitions regarding length of point, or point of origination, is an infraction under RCW 77.15.160. All other types of violations of the true-spike restriction are subject to current penalties and assessments under RCW 77.15.410 and 77.15.420.

True-spike GMUs: 251, 328-335.

3-point Antler Restrictions: Legal bull elk must have at least 3 antler points on one side. Eye guards are antler points when they are at least one inch long. Antler restrictions apply to all hunters during any open season.

3-point GMUs: All of Western Washington, except for GMUs 448, 454, 564, 652 for archers, 666, 684, and Elk Area 4941.

Permit-only Units: The following GMUs are closed to elk hunting during general elk seasons: 157, 371, 418, 485, 522, 556, 621, 636, and 653.

GMUs Closed to Elk Hunting: 437 (except for Elk Area 4941) and 490.

Areas with Special Restrictions: There are modern firearm restrictions in GMU 334 and portions of GMU 660. GMU 554 is open only for early archery and muzzleloader seasons. Elk Area 6064 in GMU 638 (Quinault) is open to master hunters only.

Elk Tag Areas

Eastern Washington: All 100, 200, and 300 GMUs.

EA - Eastern Washington Archery Tag

EF - Eastern Washington Modern Firearm General Elk Tag

EM - Eastern Washington Muzzleloader Tag

Western Washington: All 400, 500, and 600 GMUs.

WA - Western Washington Archery Tag

WF - Western Washington Modern Firearm General Elk Tag

WM - Western Washington Muzzleloader Tag

Modern Firearm General Elk Seasons

License Required: A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

Tag Required: A valid modern firearm elk tag as listed below for the area hunted.

Hunting Method: May use modern firearm, bow and arrow, crossbow, or muzzleloader, but only during modern firearm seasons.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2018 Dates	2019 Dates	2020 Dates	Legal Elk
Eastern Washington	EF	101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, 121, 204	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Oct. 26 - Nov. 3	Oct. 31 - Nov. 8	Any bull
		145 through 154, 162 through 169, 172 (except Elk Area 1040), 175 through 186, 249, 336 through 368	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Oct. 26 - Nov. 3	Oct. 31 - Nov. 8	Spike bull
		251, 328, 329, 334, 335	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Oct. 26 - Nov. 3	Oct. 31 - Nov. 8	True spike bull
		Elk Area 3722*	Sept. 8-23	Sept. 7-22	Sept. 12-27	Antlerless only
		124 through 142, 372, 382, 388	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Oct. 26 - Nov. 3	Oct. 31 - Nov. 8	Any elk
		203, 209 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 373, 379, 381	Oct. 27 - Nov. 15	Oct. 26 - Nov. 15	Oct. 31 - Nov. 15	Any elk
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Areas 3911 and 3912. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2019	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2020	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2021	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: 371. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.			Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: 127, 130	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Antlerless only
*GMU 372 and Elk Area 3722 are mainly private property. Hunters are not advised to try hunting these areas without making prior arrangements for access.						
Western Washington	WF	460, 466, 503, 505 through 520, 524 (except CLOSED in Elk Area 5066), 530, 550, 560, 568, 572, 574, 578, 601 through 618, 624 (except for Elk Area 6071), 627, 633, 638 (except master hunters only in Elk Area 6064 portion of GMU 638), 642 through 651, 652 (except for Elk Area 6014), 654, 658, 660, 667 through 684.	Nov. 3-14	Nov. 2-13	Nov. 7-18	3 pt. min.
		501, 504, 663, Elk Area 6014	Nov. 3-14	Nov. 2-13	Nov. 7-18	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		407, 448, 564, 666	Nov. 3-14	Nov. 2-13	Nov. 7-18	Any elk
		454	Nov. 3-14	Nov. 2-13	Nov. 7-18	Any bull

Archery General Elk Seasons

License Required: A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

Tag Required: A valid archery elk tag as listed below for the area hunted.

Hunting Method: Bow and arrow only, as defined under WAC 220-414-070.

Special Notes: Archery tag holders can hunt only during archery seasons and must hunt with archery equipment (WAC 220-414-070). Archery elk hunters may apply for special bull permits. Please see permit table for tag eligibility for all elk permits.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2018 Dates	2019 Dates	2020 Dates	Legal Elk
Early Archery General Elk Seasons						
Eastern Washington	EA	101 through 142, 204, 243, 247, 249, 250, 373, 379, 381, 388	Sept. 8-20	Sept. 7-19	Sept. 12-24	Any elk
		162, 166, 169, 172 (except Elk Area 1040), 175, 186, 336, 340, 352, 356, 364	Sept. 8-20	Sept. 7-19	Sept. 12-24	Spike bull
		328, 329	Sept. 8-20	Sept. 7-19	Sept. 12-24	True spike bull
		334, 335	Sept. 8-20	Sept. 7-19	Sept. 12-24	True spike bull or antlerless
		145, 149, 154, Elk Area 1010, Elk Area 1013, 163, 178, 181	Sept. 8-20	Sept. 7-19	Sept. 12-24	Spike bull or antlerless
Western Washington	WA	407, 448, 454, 564, 666, 684, Elk Area 6014	Sept. 8-20	Sept. 7-19	Sept. 12-24	Any elk
		501 through 505, 520, 550, 554, 560, 568, 572, 574, 578, Elk Area 6061, 652 (except Elk Area 6013 closed to antlerless), 654, 660, 663, 667 through 673, 681, 699	Sept. 8-20	Sept. 7-19	Sept. 12-24	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		460, 466, 506, 510, 513, 516, 524 (except CLOSED in Elk Area 5066), 530, 601 through 618, 624 (except for Elk Area 6071), 627, 633, 638 (except Master Hunters only in Elk Area 6064), 642 through 651, 658	Sept. 8-20	Sept. 7-19	Sept. 12-24	3 pt. min.
Late Archery General Elk Seasons						
Eastern Washington	EA	101, 105, 108, 117, 121, 204	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Any bull
		124, 127, 373, 388	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Any elk
		178	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Antlerless only
		Elk Area 1010, 163	Dec. 9 - Jan. 30, 2019	Dec. 9 - Jan. 30, 2020	Dec. 9 - Jan. 30, 2021	Antlerless only
		203, 209 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 379, 381. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	Oct. 27 - Nov. 15	Oct. 26 - Nov. 15	Oct. 31 - Nov. 15	Any elk
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Areas 3911 and 3912. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2019	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2020	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2021	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: 371. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.			Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: 127, 130	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Antlerless only
334, 335	Nov. 21 - Dec. 8	Nov. 27 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	True spike bull or antlerless		

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2018 Dates	2019 Dates	2020 Dates	Legal Elk
		336, 342, 346, 352, 364, Elk Area 3681	Nov. 21 - Dec. 8	Nov. 27 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Spike bull
Western Washington	WA	Elk Area 4601, 503, 505, 506, 530, 652 (except Elk Area 6013 closed to antlerless), 663, 667, 672, 681, and 699. Master hunters only in Elk Area 6064 portion of GMU 638	Nov. 21 - Dec. 15	Nov. 27 - Dec. 15	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		407	Nov. 21 - Jan 20, 2019	Nov. 27 - Jan 20, 2020	Nov. 25 - Jan 20, 2021	Any elk
		448, 454, 564, 666, Elk Area 6014	Nov. 21 - Dec. 15	Nov. 27 - Dec. 15	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Any elk
		603, 612, 615, 638 (except for Elk Area 6064), 648	Nov. 21 - Dec. 15	Nov. 27 - Dec. 15	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min.
		*GMU 372 and Elk Area 3722 are mainly private property. Hunters are not advised to try hunting these areas without making prior arrangements for access.				

Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons

License Required: A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

Tag Required: A valid muzzleloader elk tag as listed below for the area hunted.

Hunting Method: Muzzleloader, as defined under WAC 220-414-060, or bow and arrow, as defined under WAC 220-414-070.

Special Notes: Muzzleloader tag holders can only hunt during the muzzleloader seasons. Only hunters with tags identified in the Special Elk Permits tables may apply for special elk permits.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2018 Dates	2019 Dates	2020 Dates	Legal Elk
Early Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons						
Eastern Washington	EM	101 through 121, 204, 247	Oct. 6-12	Oct. 5-11	Oct. 3-9	Any bull
		124 through 142, 245, 250	Oct. 6-12	Oct. 5-11	Oct. 3-9	Any elk
		145, 149, 154, 162, 163, 166, 172 (except Elk Area 1040), 175, 178, 181, 336 through 342, 352 through 368	Oct. 6-12	Oct. 5-11	Oct. 3-9	Spike bull
		328, 329, 334, 335, Elk Area 2051	Oct. 6-12	Oct. 5-11	Oct. 3-9	True spike bull
Western Washington	WM	407, 448, 454, 564, 666, 684	Oct. 6-12	Oct. 5-11	Oct. 3-9	Any elk
		460, 466, 506, 510, 513, 516, 520, 524 (except CLOSED in Elk Area 5066), 530, 550, 554, 560, 568, 572, 574, 578, 602, 603, 607, 612, 615, 624 (except for Elk Area 6071), 627, 633, 638 (except for Elk Area 6064), 642, 648, 660, 672, 673, 681	Oct. 6-12	Oct. 5-11	Oct. 3-9	3 pt. min.
		501, 503, 504, 505, 652 (except Elk Area 6013 closed to antlerless), Elk Area 6014, 654, 663, 667, Elk Area 4601	Oct. 6-12	Oct. 5-11	Oct. 3-9	3 pt. min. or antlerless
Late Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons						
Eastern Washington	EM	130 through 142	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Any elk
		203, 209 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 373, 379, 381. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	Oct. 27 - Nov. 15	Oct. 26 - Nov. 15	Oct. 31 - Nov. 15	Any elk

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2018 Dates	2019 Dates	2020 Dates	Legal Elk
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Areas 3911 and 3912. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2019	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2020	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2021	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: 371. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.			Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: 127, 130	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Antlerless only
Western Washington	WM	407	Nov. 21 - Jan. 20, 2019	Nov. 27 - Jan. 20, 2020	Nov. 25 - Jan. 20, 2021	Any elk
		501, 503, 504, 505, 652 (except Elk Area 6013 closed to antlerless), 667	Nov. 21 - Dec. 8	Nov. 27 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		578			Nov. 25-30	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		578			Dec. 1-8	3 pt. min.
		448, 454, 564, 666, 684, Elk Area 6014	Nov. 21 - Dec. 15	Nov. 27 - Dec. 15	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Any elk
		568, 574	Nov. 21-30	Nov. 27-30	Nov. 25-30	3 pt. min.
		601, 618, 651, 658	Nov. 21 - Dec. 15	Nov. 27 - Dec. 15	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.12.240. WSR 20-12-080 (Order 20-76), § 220-415-050, filed 6/1/20, effective 7/2/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.020. WSR 19-20-078 (Order 19-245), § 220-415-050, filed 9/27/19, effective 10/28/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.090, 77.04.130, 77.15.568, 77.08.010, 77.65.510, 77.65.515, and 77.65.520. WSR 19-10-011 (Order 19-79), § 220-415-050, filed 4/19/19, effective 5/20/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, 77.12.040, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.210, 77.12.240, 77.12.320, 77.12.570, 77.12.800, 77.15.245, 77.32.007, 77.32.050, 77.32.070, 77.32.090, 77.32.370, and 77.32.530. WSR 18-11-061 (Order 18-76), § 220-415-050, filed 5/11/18, effective 6/11/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.800, 77.32.090. WSR 17-10-076 (Order 17-10), amended and recodified as § 220-415-050, filed 5/3/17, effective 6/3/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.800, 77.32.090, and 77.32.155. WSR 16-12-087, § 232-28-358, filed 5/31/16, effective 7/1/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240. WSR 15-10-059 (Order 15-98), § 232-28-358, filed 4/30/15, effective 5/31/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-358, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-358, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 12-11-005 (Order 12-70), § 232-28-358, filed 5/2/12, effective 6/2/12.]